(b) the total value of imports made from the following three companies individually: (i) Marktec, (ii) Micro Technologies Inc., (iii) Ironics; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the items imported from these companies were not manufactured or dealt with by these companies earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Total value of import sanctioned for the C-DOT project is Rs. 20 crores in foreign exchange.

(b) Total value of imports made from the three companies are as stated below:

	US Dollars
Marktec USA . . .	1,59,988
Micro Technologies Inc. USA .	50,636
Ironics USA	71,970

The total value of imports from the three companies comes to about Rs. 28.2 lakhs in foreign exchange at the exchange rate prevalent at the time of import.

(c) The items imported from these companies were either manufactured or dealt with by these companies earlier.

Withdrawal of cases related to purchase of Czech pistols

233. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases launched by Government against some officials of the Ministry in the purchase of Czech pistols have been withdrawn;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any senior member of the Cabinet was found involved in this case?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) CBI is still continuing investigation.

Loss to ship owners due to holding up of Cargo Ships at ports

234. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cargo Ships are being held up at the ports due to shortage of certificated officers consequently increasing ship-owners' operating costs;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of losses being incurred by them on this account; and

(c) what remedial measures are being taken by Government to remove the anomally?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Indian National Shipowners Association has estimated the total number of ships days lost by Indian ship owners for want of certificated officers to be around 335 during the period from July, 1989 to January, 1990. They have also estimated that the average loss per ship day on account of standing charges is around Rs. 1 lakh.

(c) The following important remedial measures have been taken by Government to ameliorate the shortage of certificated officers:

(1) Intake of cadets for training in pre-sea training institutions viz., T.S. "Rajendra" for Nautical Officers and D.M.E.T. for Engineer Officers has been increased to their full capacity from 1988 onwards.

(2) Special Scheme for training Science and Engineering Graduates as Nautical Officers has been sanctioned to the Shipping Corporation of India.

(3) Indian Shipping Companies have been advised to consider recruiting and training Graduates Engineers.

(4) Indian shipping companies are permitted to take direct entry deck apprentices and workshop trained apprentices.

(5) Issue of Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) has been restricted to officers who want to join an Indian ship, CDC will be refused to those who initially desire to join a foreign flag vessel except in those cases where the officers have been trained by the agency companies at their cost.

(6) The Director General of Shipping has given special dispensation for temporary period in appropriate cases from rules/STCW Convention which prescribe statutory manning requirements.

(7) Shipping companies have been given special dispensation by permitting them to employ officers above the age of 60 years subject to their medical fitness for sea service, for a period of 6 months which could be extended, subject to a maximum limit of 62 years.

Cancellation of supply of lines on C-DOT technology

235. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that earlier orders placed for supply of lines on C-DOT technology have been cancelled;

(b) whether any plans have been initiated to produce these lines from indigenous sources; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sactioning of telephones to retiring Government officials

236. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision under the extant rules for sanctioning of telephones to retiring Government officials under some special category; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central/State Government Officers, who retire from service and were drawing a basic pay of Rs. 3700/- per month or more for at least one year prior to retirement are eligible for registration of the application for a telephone connection under NON-OYT-SS category. Telephone connections against NON-OYT-SS category are provided to such officers according to the wating list.

Deterioration of DAC services

237. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DTC services on route Nos. 71, 72, 47 and 313 have seriously deteriorated for the last three years; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what were the number of DTC buses and also private buses under DTC operation which were plying on each of these routes during the last